

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: CONVENTION OF ACTION COMMUNITY FOR A FOURTH PARTY

1. THE ACTION COMMUNITY FOR A FOURTH PARTY (AFP) HELD A CONVENTION IN AUGSBURG JANUARY 18 FOR PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING A BAVARIAN LAND DISTRICT ORGANIZATION (LANDESVERBAND). AT A PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THE CONVENTION, AFP FEDERAL CHAIRMAN DIETRICK BAHNER, FORMER FDP LAND CHAIRMAN IN BAVARIA, MADE FOLLOWING NOTEWORTHY POINTS:

(A) CHIEF GOAL OF AFP IS TO HELP CDU/CSU WIN COMING BUNDESTAG ELECTIONS;

(B) AFP BELIEVES THAT CDU/CSU WILL NOT RPT NOT OBTAIN 50 PERCENT OF VOTE WITHOUT AFP SUPPORT;

(C) AFP'S PROGRAM IS "ALMOST IDENTICAL" TO THAT OF CSU, ONLY DIFFERENCE BEING THAT AFP IS ABLE TO PUT "CLEARER EMPHASIS" ON CERTAIN ISSUES, SUCH AS EASTERN

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TREATIES AND CODETERMINATION, ON WHICH CSU HAS ALLEGEDLY

HAD TO SOFTEN ITS POSITION IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE CDU/CSU
UNITY;

(D) AFP NATIONAL CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN BONN
MARCH 27 WILL DECIDE IN WHICH LAENDER AFP WILL FIELD
CANDIDATES AND RESERVE LISTS FOR OCTOBER BUNDESTAG ELEC-
TIONS;

(E) AFP DESIRES TO FORM COALITION GOVERNMENT IN BONN
WITH CDU AND CSU FOLLOWING THE ELECTIONS.

2. THERE SEEM TO BE INTERNAL DISAGREEMENTS WITHIN THE
AFP CONCERNING THE AFP'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE CSU. ONE
WEEK BEFORE THE CONVENTION BAHNER TOLD NEWSMEN THE AFP
WOULD NOT RPT NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE BUNDESTAG ELECTIONS
IN BAVARIA IN ORDER TO AVOID WEAKENING THE CSU. AT
JANUARY 18 PRESS CONFERENCE, HOWEVER, BAHNER SAID THIS
MATTER WOULD BE DECIDED AT COMING NATIONAL CONVENTION.
AFP BAVARIAN LAND CHAIRMAN GUENTHER LEYK TOLD CONGEN
OFFICIAL PRIVATELY THAT QUESTION OF PARTICIPATION IN
BAVARIAN ELECTIONS WAS BITTERLY DISPUTED AT CONVENTION.

3. COMMENT: ON JANUARY 9 OFFICIAL CSU PRESS SPOKESMAN
FLATELY DENIED ANY CSU CONNECTION WITH AFP ACTIVITIES.
AFP IS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY TO BREAK 5 PERCENT BARRIER, AND ANY
ELECTION SUCCESSES IT ENJOYS WOULD BE PRIMARILY AT EXPENSE
OF CDU/CSU WHOSE CHANCES OF OBTAINING BUNDESTAG MAJORITY
WOULD BE DIMINISHED. CONSEQUENTLY, CONGEN ACCEPTS CSU
SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT AT FACE VALUE. ALTHOUGH BAHNER,
WHO IS IDEOLOGICALLY COMMITTED CONSERVATIVE, SEEMS
GENUINELY INTERESTED IN ENSURING UNION GOVERNMENT IN
BONN WHILE STRENGTHENING ROLE OF STRAUSS AND CDU CON-
SERVATIVES WITHIN UNION, HIS BAVARIAN FOLLOWERS IN AFP
HAVE ROMANTIC NOTIONS ABOUT WINNING SEATS IN BUNDESTAG.
WE NOTE THAT AFP HAS ALSO ESTABLISHED LANDESVERBAENDE FOR
NORTH RHINE WESTPHALIA AND BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG.PETERSON

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